

23.

20

16. (Once Amended) The computer-readable medium recited in Claim 13, wherein said identifying criteria comprises a [DTMF] dual tone multi-frequency code sequence and said step of obtaining an identifying criteria further comprises the steps of:

providing keypad menu selection options to said called party; and

receiving a [DTMF] dual tone multi-frequency signal corresponding to a keypad menu selection from said called party.

REMARKS

The Applicant and the undersigned attorney thank Examiner Quoc Tieu for the Examiner's careful review of this patent application. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks, which are responsive to the Official Action mailed January 7, 1999. In the Official Action, the Examiner objected to claims 11 and 14-16, and rejected claims 1-16. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-16 remain pending.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 11 and 14-16 on the ground that these claims refer to "CLID" and "DTMF" rather than to the terms for which they stand, "calling line identification" and "dual tone multi-frequency." Applicant submits that claims 11 and 14-16 have been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner to refer to "calling line identification" and "dual tone multi-frequency." These claim amendments are not submitted to further distinguish the recited invention over the prior art of record. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objections to these claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 11 and 12 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner rejected claim 11 on the ground that it lacks antecedent basis in that at line 12 the claim refers to "said interface device" rather than to "said receiving interface device" or "said transmitting interface device." The Examiner rejected claim 12 because it depends from claim 11.

The Applicant submits that claim 11 has been amended to distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, claim 11 has been amended to refer to "said receiving interface device" rather than to "said interface device." Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that the pending rejections of claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112 have been traversed. These claim amendments are not submitted to further distinguish the recited invention over the prior art of record. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the pending rejections of these claims.

Claims 1 and 5 have also been amended to correct inadvertent typographical errors. The Applicant submits that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,329,578 to Brennan et al. ("*Brennan*"). The Applicant respectfully offers remarks to traverse the pending rejections.

Brennan Fails to Teach, Suggest, or Describe Each Recitation of Claims 1-

16

Claim 1

The pending rejection of claim 1 is respectfully traversed. The Applicant respectfully submits that *Brennan* fails to describe, teach, or suggest each of the recitations of claim 1. In particular, *Brennan* fails to teach or suggest maintaining “a plurality of routing lists, each of said routing lists being associated with at least one originating source and comprising a plurality of directory numbers.”

Brennan describes a personal communication service that permits incoming calls to a telephone subscriber to be re-routed according to the numbers listed in a single subscriber number list associated with the subscriber's account. (*Brennan*, col. 5, lines 60-68). The disclosure of *Brennan*, however, does not teach or suggest utilizing separate routing lists associated with originating sources. *Brennan* only describes a single routing list associated with the subscriber's account that is applied to all incoming calls. For instance, at col. 4, lines 27-31, *Brennan* states “. . . the service node 10 will attempt call completion according to the subscriber's profile contained at the service node 10.”(emphasis added). Accordingly, *Brennan* does not teach or suggest routing lists associated with originating sources. By providing separate routing lists associated with originating sources, the invention of claim 1 allows the subscriber to specify a different routing list for each originating source. For instance, the subscriber may specify a separate routing list for calls originating from the subscriber's home phone number to minimize interruptions due to personal calls. This advantage is not possible using the disclosure of *Brennan*. Accordingly, *Brennan* does not teach or suggest this recitation of claim 1.

Brennan also fails to teach, suggest, or describe “selecting a routing list associated with said originating source from said plurality of routing lists; and directing said call according to said routing list.” As discussed above, *Brennan* only describes a single routing list associated with the

subscriber's account. *Brennan* does not describe or suggest separate routing lists associated with originating sources. Therefore, *Brennan* does not describe selecting a routing list associated with an originating source and routing the call from the originating source according to the selected routing list. Because *Brennan* does not teach, suggest, or describe each recitation of claim 1, the Applicant submits that the pending rejection of claim 1 has been traversed, and respectfully requests that the Examiner allow this claim.

Claims 2-4, 6, and 7

The Applicant respectfully submits that *Brennan* fails to teach or describe each recitation of claims 2-4, 6, and 7. In particular, *Brennan* does not teach or suggest associating a routing list with *an originating source*, such as a directory number, an identification code, or a calling line identification, and also does not teach or suggest “retrieving an associated routing list for” an originating source. Moreover, because *Brennan* does not teach or suggest separate routing lists for originating sources, *Brennan* also does not teach “retrieving a default routing list” if a routing list associated with the originating source does not exist.

The Examiner alleges that *Brennan* teaches that the default routing list is to route the caller to voice mail. Voice mail, however, does not comprise a routing list of directory numbers for routing a call from an originating source. Rather, voice mail is simply a single destination for a call from an originating source. Accordingly, *Brennan* does not teach, suggest or describe each and every recitation of claims 2-4, 6, and 7. Therefore, the Applicant submits that the pending rejections of claims 2-4, 6, and 7 have been traversed.

Claim 5

Brennan fails to teach, suggest, or describe each recitation of claim 5. In particular, *Brennan* fails to teach, suggest, or describe maintaining a plurality of routing lists associated with

“at least one originating party and at least one personal number.” As discussed above with respect to claim 1, *Brennan* fails to teach or suggest associating routing lists with originating sources. For the same reasons, *Brennan* also fails to teach associating routing lists with originating sources and at least one personal number. By associating routing lists with originating sources and a personal number, the invention of claim 5 is able to easily identify the subscriber and provide a level of security not provided by the disclosure of *Brennan*. Accordingly, *Brennan* does not teach, suggest, or describe this recitation of claim 5.

Brennan also fails to teach, suggest, or describe “selecting a routing list associated with said personal number and said originating party; and routing said call in accordance with said list.” Because *Brennan* does not teach or suggest associating a routing list with an originating party and a personal number, it also does not teach or suggest selecting such a list and routing a call in accordance with such a list. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that *Brennan* does not teach each recitation of claim 5 and that the pending rejection has been traversed.

Claims 8-10

Brennan fails to teach, suggest, or describe each recitation of claims 8-10. In particular, *Brennan* fails to teach or suggest selecting a routing list identified for an originating party based on the day of the week a communication is received, the time of day a communication is received, or both. At col. 6, lines 46-69, *Brennan* describes separate routing lists for different days of the week and different times. However, each of these lists is associated with the subscriber's profile, not with an originating source. By associating routing lists with an originating party and selecting a routing list based on the time of day, day of week, or both, the inventions of claims 8-10 allow a degree of flexibility not found in the disclosure of *Brennan*. For instance, using the invention of claim 8, a separate routing list may be created for a specific originating party for each day of the week. This type of customization is not possible under the disclosure of *Brennan*. Accordingly,

Brennan does not teach, suggest, or describe each recitation of claims 8-10 and the Applicant submits that the pending rejections of these claims have been traversed.

Claim 11

The pending rejection of claim 11 is respectfully traversed. The Applicant respectfully submits that *Brennan* fails to describe, teach, or suggest each of the recitations of claim 11. In particular, *Brennan* fails to teach or suggest retrieving “an associated routing list from said memory storage device for said calling line identification.” As discussed above with respect to claim 1, *Brennan* does not teach or suggest utilizing separate routing lists associated with originating sources. *Brennan* only describes a single routing list associated with the subscriber’s account that is applied to all incoming calls. Accordingly, *Brennan* does not teach or suggest associating a routing list with a calling line identification or retrieving such a list. By providing separate routing lists associated with a calling line identification, the invention of Claim 11 allows the subscriber to specify a different routing list for each calling line identification. This advantage is not possible using the disclosure of *Brennan*. Accordingly, *Brennan* does not teach or suggest this recitation of Claim 11.

Because *Brennan* does not teach or suggest separate routing lists for each calling line identification, *Brennan* also does not teach retrieving “a default routing list” if a routing list associated with the calling line identification does not exist. Likewise, *Brennan* also does not teach or suggest directing a call setup request in accordance with such a routing list. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that the pending rejection of claim 11 has been traversed and respectfully requests that this claim be allowed.

Claim 13

The pending rejection of Claim 13 is respectfully traversed. The Applicant respectfully submits that *Brennan* fails to describe, teach, or suggest each of the recitations of Claim 13. In particular, *Brennan* fails to teach or suggest obtaining an identifying criteria from a communication directed to a called party, retrieving a routing list based on the identifying criteria, and directing the communication in accordance with the routing list. *Brennan* describes the use of an identification password by individual callers to obtain “special treatment.” (*Brennan*, col. 5, lines 4-8). However, the “special treatment” described by *Brennan* only includes playing a special message to the caller or giving the call special status. (*Brennan*, col. 5, lines 8-15). The “special treatment” described by *Brennan* does not include or suggest retrieving a routing list based on the identifying criteria, or routing the call in accordance with the routing list. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that *Brennan* does not teach or suggest each recitation of claim 13 and submits that the pending rejection of claim 13 has been traversed. The Applicant respectfully requests that this claim be allowed.

Claims 12, 14-16

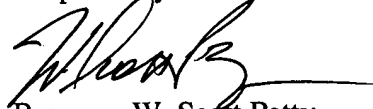
The Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 12 and 14-16 are allowable because the independent claims from which they depends are patentable over the cited reference. The Applicant also respectfully submits that the recitations of these claims are of patentable significance. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully traverses the pending rejections of claims 12 and 14-16, and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the pending rejections of this claims.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action mailed January 7, 1999. Applicant and the undersigned thank Examiner Quoc Tieu for the Examiner's consideration of these remarks. Applicant has amended the application to remedy the formal defects cited by the Examiner and has submitted remarks to traverse the pending rejections of claims 1-16. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is hereby courteously solicited.

If any other issues remaining in this application may be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to directly contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


By: W. Scott Petty
Reg. No. 35,645

JONES & ASKEW, LLP
2400 Monarch Tower
3424 Peachtree Road, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30326
(404) 949-2400
Our File: 19260-0780
BellSouth File: 95041